



2d Tank Battalion

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 1-2016

JANUARY 2016

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Message from the Commanding Officer

Marines, Sailors, and Families of the Ironhorse,

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas/New Year's break and were able to enjoy some much needed time with your family. Just before the holidays, the Battalion closed out the year with training that included combined arms live fire using mortars, artillery, and aviation delivered fires as well as a computer simulated training exercise. We also celebrated the Battalion's 74th birthday with a colors rededication ceremony. I hope all of you were able to enjoy our Holiday Party at the tank ramp last month, many thanks to the volunteers and the Family Readiness Officer (FRO) for organizing such a great event.

I cannot believe we are now in 2016, time seems to fly here at 2d Tanks. I'm expecting the new year to be even busier than 2015. We are expecting to see the return of 2d Platoon, Charlie Company from their deployment to Eastern Europe as part of the Black Sea Rotational Force Combined Arms Company and the departure of 1st Platoon, Charlie Company replacing them in January. 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company is

currently deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit while 1st Platoon, Alpha Company has just recently chopped to 1st Bn 6th Marines in preparation for training and deployment with the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit. On 22 January, our team is re-starting our Healthy Relationships workshops for all Marines, sailors, and their significant others with the next seminar focused on conflict resolution. Please contact the FRO or Chaplain for more information. Meanwhile, Bravo Company

infantry, artillery, amtraks, Light Armored Reconnaissance, aviation, and intelligence organizations. On March 4th, 2016, we will conduct a ceremony officially deactivating Charlie Company. After that day, 2d Tank Battalion will be downsized to an H&S Company and only two remaining tank companies (Alpha and Bravo). If you are interested in attending this ceremony, please contact the FRO for details.



I hope your Marine/Sailor is keeping you informed of all the training events and family readiness activities we have coming up in 2016. Please feel free to contact our Family Readiness Officer (FRO)- Noreen Towle for any questions about our Family Readiness Program and how we can support you or if you're interested in volunteering your time and talent to support the battalion.

She can be reached at her desk number 910-451-6343, by cell 910-372-2741, and at noreen.towle@usmc.mil.

Very Respectfully,
LtCol Robert J. Bodisch, USMC-
Commanding Officer
2d Tank Battalion, 2d Marine
Division

will be in Gunnery training for most of January and the rest of the Battalion will be preparing for our Battalion Field Exercise "Iron Blitz" that will take place next month using nearly all of the training areas of Camp Lejeune. This training will highlight our Battalion's ability to conduct a vast array of tasks to include offensive and defensive operations, conducting a river crossing, and integrating numerous units from across the Marine Corps including

Headquarters and Service Company



I hope all your Holiday and New Years' plans were fantastic. First off, I'd like to introduce myself to you. My name is Major Tim Wright and I am the Headquarters and Service (H&S) Company Commander. This is my second time back to the battalion and I am very excited to be a part of it again.

Since I have taken command, you may have noticed some changes to the way the company does business. I am definitely focused on getting the Marines and Sailors to be able to handle tactical situations with enemy contact likely while still being able to accomplish their primary missions whether that is; maintenance (MT/Tanks), communications, supply, motor transportation, or armory.

Over the last quarter, H&S Company has completed the following



training events:

Lance Corporal Seminar (weekly)
Support Bravo Company Field Exercise (5-9 October)
Swim Qualification (13 October)
Rifle Range (19-23 October)
Field Trains Field Exercise IV (26-30 October)
Combat Marksmanship Program Tables III-VI (2-3 November)
Pistol Qualification (18 November)
Corporals Course (30 November – 18 December)
Field Trains Field Exercise V (1-4 December)
Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Training (2 December)
Fire Support Coordination Exercise (10 December)
Rifle Range (14 – 18 December)



Most of the training events focused on tactical training scenarios to begin to focus H&S Company on operating with an opposing enemy force. The company is looking forward to continuing this training into the next section that will include a Battalion level exercise in February.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Marines and Sailors of H&S Company along with the support from their family networks.

Semper Fi ,

Tim Wright
Maj, USMC
H&S Company Commander

Alpha Company



Alpha Company Marines, Families, and Friends:

Time flies when you are having fun or extremely busy and the time has been flying for the Marines of Company A over the past quarter for both of those reasons. We have returned from ITX I-16 having accomplished both of the goals that I set forth for them. On day one of our arrival at ITX, I told the company that I will consider this training a



success so long as we conduct all of the training safely and return to Camp Lejeune, NC more proficient as a company than when we left. On these two fronts (as well as many others) the company succeeded with flying colors. During the 20 day training schedule, Company A trained to standard on everything from combined arms breaching of an enemy obstacle belt (mines, ditches, berms) to the establishment of a



Tactical Assembly Area in order to resupply the company in a hostile environment. As the training continued, the Marines of this company became more and more aggressive and comfortable with the training environment presented at 29 Palms, CA. When the dust had settled, Alpha Company, 2d Tank Bn had been the main effort in every company or battalion level operation throughout the

Alpha Company Continued...

entire iteration of ITX. The Marines of Company A trained hard, wore themselves thin, and fought their tanks to accomplish their mission.

I am extremely proud of the men of this company and to be associated with the caliber of Marines that they are.

On the horizon are a few company level field exercises in January, a battalion level exercise in February, and then more company level field exercises in March. During all of these events we will continue to hone our skills and improve upon the high bar we set for ourselves while at ITX.

For those at home: We will continue to stay busy in the next coming months. That

being said, I promise whenever I can get your Marine back home to you I will do so! Thank you as always for all of the support! Semper Fi!

Alpha Company spotlight Marine of the Quarter: 2ndLt Chase A. Montambo

The newest addition to the Alpha Company team is 2ndLt Chase A. Montambo. Born and raised in the Norfolk, VA area, he spent his formative years playing soccer and being picked on by his older brother. From his 7th grade to 10th grade years, he lived in Italy with his family where he fell in love with history. After graduating high school in 2010, he attended VMI on an NROTC scholarship where he majored in history. After completing all of the NROTC requirements for commis-

sioning and graduating in 2014, he attended The Basic School where he attained the MOS of 1802. After a brief stint of On-The-Job training here in Alpha Company, he attended the Armor School at Ft. Benning, GA. Lt Montambo is an avid soccer and hockey fan, however, he also enjoys cooking and reading trashy novels. He has a bright future and we are happy to have him here in the company.

Capt Padraig Flynn
Alpha Company Commander

January Birthdays		February Birthdays		March Birthdays
LCpl Slaton	Cpl Hale	LCpl Deleon	LCpl Johnston	Cpl Bauer
LCpl McPherson	Cpl Lewis	LCpl Burck	Sgt Elliott	Cpl Silkwood
Cpl Glon	LCpl Linville	LCpl Meadows	LCpl Ascencio	Sgt Caruso
LCpl Robledo	IstLt Smith	PFC Skelton	LCpl Moscoso	LCpl Huerta
Cpl Gregalunas	LCpl Ludwig	Sgt Rodriguez	Cpl Prewitt	LCpl Yim
LCpl Kamar	Cpl Lee	SSgt McBride	Cpl Ryan	Sgt Flint
Sgt Mateo		Cpl Smith	LCpl Moriarty	LCpl Hardy
		Cpl Shaw		



~ A Co Cake
Cutting Ceremony for
the USMC 240th
Birthday. Oldest
Marine was GySgt
Jason Pittsley.
Youngest Marine was
LCpl Christopher
Zamora

Bravo Company

Bravo Company Marines, Sailors, Families, and Friends:

Happy New Year! I hope everyone in the Bravo family was able to have a Merry Christmas and enjoyable holiday season with family and friends. The past few months have been incredibly busy for the Marines and sailors of Company B. The company spent a total of 5 weeks in the field, with another week conducting simulated exercises focusing on "combined arms" integration. Additionally, the company spent the weeks leading up to the holidays preparing for our semi-annual tank gunnery right around the corner. The focus of the company over these past four months has been offensive operations, defensive operations, combined arms breaching, and Chemical, Biological, and Nuclear defense operations. As always your Marines and sailors excelled and continue to do outstanding things within the battalion.

The upcoming quarter will continue to be a busy one for the company. The company will head out to qualify during our semi-annual tank gunnery, spending the better part of a

month on the tank range. The days are long and the competition is intense amongst the individual crews and platoons, but gunnery training truly embodies what being in a tank battalion is all about.

Shortly after gunnery ends in February, the company will be participating in our Battalion Field Exercise (BNFEX) "Operation Iron Blitz" aboard Camp Lejeune. This exercise involves units from multiple services, occupational specialties, and skill sets from up and down the East Coast. BNFEX will be one of the largest exercises to take place aboard Camp Lejeune in recent years.

In March the company will conduct semi-annual tank services (think 50,000 mile services for your vehicle). During this time, though your Marine or sailor will be home every night, the days are typically quite long and labor intensive. These services are important for the company so that we can ensure our tanks are combat ready at all times.

The battalion is coordinating numerous "relationship building" events for single Marines, married Marines and their significant others, or folks that just want to improve their

day to day relationships. I highly encourage you to attend if able. The next seminar will take place on 22 January at the 2d Tank Battalion Command Post. Your Marine or sailor has access to all of the details.

Some future dates to keep in mind:
Semi Annual Tank Gunnery
11 January – 6 February
Healthy Relationship Seminar:
22 January
Battalion Field Exercise:
19-26 February
Semi Annual Tank Services:
Month of March

Company B Tanker of the Quarter: The Tanker of the Quarter is Corporal Edward J. Douse. Cpl Douse hails from St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands. He was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Corporal in December while attending the 2d Tank Battalion Corporals Course. While attending the course, Cpl Douse was voted by his peers to receive the "Gung Ho" Award for his enthusiasm and ability to bring folks together as a team.

Semper Tanks,

Captain Kevin Newport
Bravo Company Commander

Charlie Company

Friends and family,

This will be the final newsletter from Charlie Company. With a majority of the platoons deployed and the rest of the company being deactivated the C Co colors will be retired. Charlie Company will live on through its illustrious history and the Marines and Sailors who have had the privi-

lege of serving in the company. C Co will have a de-activation ceremony on March 4th. For any of those that are interested in attending the Ceremony please contact the Family Readiness Officer at 910-451-6343 or check the E-Marine website. For those of you looking for updates on your Marine/Sailor that is currently

overseas please give the Family Readiness Officer a call. Thank you for supporting your Marine or Sailor while they were a member of Charlie Company and I hope to see you at the de-activation.

1stLt James Hatch
Charlie Company Commander

Marriage is Hard

“You will be pushed past your breaking point. You will have to dig deeper in yourself than you ever thought possible. You will find out things about yourself you’ve never imagined. You will cry. You will hurt. You will never be the same. Those that give up will fail. Those that don’t give up may still fail. But those who succeed will be the ones who never gave up.”

I imagine the above monologue to have come from some salty MARSOC or SEAL trainer addressing a new class of recruits before initial special operations’ training. However, it’s a reflection on marriage.

Most of us are surprised at just how difficult a successful marriage is. I think there are many factors at play that make marriage a difficult undertaking. One factor is that many of us get married after living what amounts to only a short time when compared to our overall life. As of 2012, the life expectancy for Americans was 78.8 years. Considering many of our Marines and Sailors get married in their early 20s, they have lived less than a third of their expected lifespan and have lived only a small fraction of their adult lives when they marry. Consequently, there is very little life experience to pull from when entering into marriages at such an age.

Another aspect of marriage that is difficult is coordinating

the life-goals and dreams of two individuals. Compounding this difficulty is the fact that our life-goals and dreams tend to change as we age. Children compound this difficulty as having children adds more individuals with goals and dreams to the mix.

Marriage is hard, but it’s not impossible. Actually, marriage can be very rewarding and a source of great joy in one’s life. But as the case with most things that are rewarding and joy-filled in life, one has to work for it. Such is the case with marriage. To have a rewarding and joy-filled marriage, both spouses have to work very hard to make the marriage work.

Research has shown that successful, healthy, and rewarding marriages have certain aspects in common. These commonalities often are certain tactics, techniques, and skills employed by both spouses in a healthy marriage. Some couples learn these tactics, techniques, and skills by chance on their own. However, in most healthy marriages both spouses learn these tactics, techniques, and skills through the mentoring and guidance of more experienced couples, in marriage counseling, or through their own research in relationship building.

Nurturing healthy marriage relationships is important to the leadership of 2d Tank Battalion. As such, 2d Tanks has developed and implemented a Healthy Relationships

Program that offers opportunities to learn and develop these healthy relationship tactics, techniques, and skills for not only married Marines, Sailors, and spouses, but also to those single Marines, Sailors, and their significant others. These opportunities include monthly workshops in relationship skills as well as marriage enrichment retreats through CREDO. Attending such opportunities and implementing the tactics, techniques, and skills taught in these workshops and retreats can give your relationship the edge needed to be healthy, rewarding, and joy-filled.

If you want more information on these events or have ideas for other relationship enrichment opportunities, please let me know.

May God Bless,

Chaplain Constantine

Office Number: 910-451-2424/6344

Email: jason.constantine@usmc.mil



2d Tank Battalion Family Readiness Program



2d Tank Battalion has a variety of volunteers who help support our unit. Official volunteers are trained individuals that work with the Family Readiness Command Team to provide feedback, suggestions and help to execute the Commander's Intent with regard to the unit family readiness program. They work closely in support of service members and their families, providing resources and referrals when necessary.

Morale Support Volunteers



are volunteers who participate in specific events. These volunteers assist with the planning, coordination and execution of events.

Being involved not only benefits our Marines and their family members, it also fosters and nurtures a positive, proactive community. The 2d Tank Battalion volunteers have done so much, from helping with the Trunk or Treat/ Haunted Warehouse and the Tanks-giving food baskets to working the holiday party.



2d Tanks will be bidding farewell to Mrs. Burkhardt and Mrs. Sanchez who have supported 2d Tanks for many years. We greatly appreciate all they have done for the unit, our Marines, Sailors, and their families.

We are in need of more volunteers willing to be trained who can take their place. If you are interested, please contact the FRO, 910.451.6343 for more information.

Thank you 2d Tank Battalion volunteers for all you do.

2d Tank Battalion Single Marine Program

The Single Marine Program contributes to the improvement of total force readiness, job performance, and retention by supporting the enhancement of quality of life for all single Marines and Sailors belonging to 2d Tank Battalion. The SMP gives our Marines and Sailors a chance to put down the bolts and screws for just a day to enjoy various activities to enhance the morale of the Battalion. Lance Corporal Conroy with Alpha Company, Lance Corporal Torrico with Bravo Company, Corporal Califa with Charlie Company,

Lance Corporal Magness with H&S Company. And last but not least, Lance Corporal McKenzie is the Battalion SMP Officer.

These Marines demonstrate a profound interest in the morale, discipline, and efficiency of those around them. In the past, LCpl McKenzie and his fellow SMP Officers have hosted some great events that the single Marines in the Battalion truly enjoyed. These are a few of the past events: Barracks Bash, and all-out paintball brawl, a day of bowling, and an outdoor recreational day. This program also offers Marines and Sailors a

chance to volunteer for several community and Marine Corps related opportunities. The Single Marine Program is continually evolving and changing to accommodate the needs of the Marines. We hope to see you at the next event!

~LCpl Derrick McKenzie
2d Tank Bn SMP Officer



Promotions

OCTOBER:

LCPL ESTLE, KOBE J.
LCPL PALEN, AVERY J.
LCPL TOGNIETTI, ANTHONY P.
LCPL TOOLEY, PIERCE S.
CPL FETZER JR, ANDREW W.
CPL HOWELL, MATTHEW W.
CPL JAMES, BENJAMIN M.
CPL LONYO, SHAWN T.
SSGT DARKHORSE, STEALTH H.
SSGT JOHNSON, AARON P.
SSGT ROLON, JASON L.
LCPL MOSCOSO, JUAN A.
1STSGT JOHNSON, JONAS A.

NOVEMBER:

CPL CORTEZ, MICHAEL J.
CPL HIGDON, CHRISTOPHE A.
CPL HURT, NIKOS D.
SGT FRAVERT, ETHAN E.
SGT MASTIN, ETHAN E.
SGT WILLIS, DORON M.
LCPL ALCANTARA, JOSE M.
LCPL MCPHERSON, CHRISTOPHER
LCPL SEELEY, JOSHUA R.
LCPL ARCADI, DOMONICK D.
LCPL BOWEN, JORDAN R.
LCPL EAGAN, CONNOR J.
LCPL WEBB, DUSTIN L.



DECEMBER:

LCPL MAMBULAO, MARK M.
LCPL PALOMO JR, EDWIN
LCPL PEAVLER, BRYCE W.
LCPL THIBODEAU, CAELAN C.
LCPL TRESCOTT, SAMUEL O.
LCPL TUCKER, CORY M.
LCPL VILLEGAS, MARCOS J.
CPL CHAPMAN, JAMES A.
CPL FERNANDEZ, LUIS
CPL GALLAGHER, RYAN S.
CPL MACHADOPEREZ,
ESTEBAN A
CPL MELENDEZVELEZ, JULIO A.
CPL MINACOELLO, ALFREDO S.
SGT ACKERSON, WILLIAM D.
SGT CASTER, KYLE P.
SGT CONOVER, RUSSELL A.
SGT CRESSOINE, KEITH M.
SGT FLINT, JEROME K.
SGT NYE, JAMES T.
CAPT CROFTON, AIDEN



JANUARY:

LCPL KYLE, HOLDEN E.
LCPL LEROY, CONNOR W.
LCPL LEVINE, MAX A.
CPL ALVAREZ, SERGIO A.
CPL CONTRERAS, ERIK
CPL FELICIANO, NIKKO E.
SGT ROLONRIVERA, PEDRO
SGT DOUSE, EDWRD J.
MSGT PITTSLEY, JASON L.
SGTMAJ MONROE, KRESTON
CAPT BROWN, MITCHELL

United States Marine Corps Reenlistment Oath

I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

Congratulations to the following Marines on their reenlistments:

SSGT ADDINGTON, JACOB
SGT ALEGRIA, MANUEL A
SSGT COMPTON, CECIL R
SSGT HORCHARIK, DANIEL J
SGT JONES, TYLER S
SGT MATEO, PAVEL E
SSGT MCBRIDE, TRAVIS L
SSGT RIDDLE, JOSHUA M
SGT STONE, THOMAS F
SSGT UEHLING, NOAH D
GYSGT WARD, NONTRON
CPL ACKERSON, WILLIAM D
CPL ALEGRIA JR, JUAN M
SGT ALLEN, LEVI M
SGT ANNABLE, MATTHEW

Reenlistments

LCPL BARRY, MICHAEL A
CPL CARUSO, MATTHEW K
CPL CASSIDY, RONALD P
CPL CASTER, KYLE P
CPL COMPTON, DEVAN M
CPL CORCORAN, PATRICK R
CPL DEMILLE, SEAN M
CPL DOUSE, EDWARD J
LCPL FERNANDEZ, LUIS
CPL FRAVERT, ETHAN E
CPL GARCIA, MICHAEL A
SGT GOESSL, JONATHAN M
LCPL GREEN, NATHAN C
CPL GRIMALDI, ROMNY A
SGT HARTY, DYLAN K
LCPL JELLISON, JAMES T

CPL JOHNSON, THOMAS J
CPL MASTIN, ETHAN E
LCPL MATTESON, NICHOLAS R
CPL NYE, JAMES T
CPL OLAVE, BERNADETTE
CPL PREWITT, HOWARD M
SGT RAMIREZ, PEDRO J
CPL ROBINSON, CHANCE I
SGT SEMONES, ZACHERY R
LCPL SKINNER, DAVID P
SGT SMILEY, THOMAS L
CPL THOMAS JR, KELVIN W
CPL WATERFIELD, OLIVER G
CPL WEBER, LOGAN A
SGT WILLIS, DORON M
LCPL YANEZ, RICHARD E

Retirements

The Watch

For years this Marine has stood the watch. While many of us lay about our bunks at night, this Marine stood watch. While others of us were attending schools, this Marine stood the watch. As our families watched the storm clouds of war brewing on the horizons of history, he stood the watch. This Marine looked ashore and saw his family often needing guidance, but he knew that he must stay because he had the watch.

For years he stood watch so that our fellow countrymen could sleep soundly, in safety, knowing that this Marine would stand the watch. Today we are here to say ~ the watch stands relieved. Relieved by those you have led, guided and trained. Marine, you stand relieved. We have the watch.

Fair winds and following seas
Gunnery Sergeant Jason D. Bathon



MCCS Grand Prix Series

2d Tank Battalion Marines participated in the 2015 Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) Grand Prix Series. The Grand Prix Series are open to individuals of all backgrounds and levels of fitness.

The 2015 Grand Prix Series events consisted of:

X-Treme endurance Challenge 10K
St. Paddy's Engineer 5 Mile Challenge
MARSOC Mud, Sweat & Tears 5 Mile

Mud Run
Sand-Sational 8K beach Run
Marine Corps Half Marathon 10k/5k
Remembrance Run 10K
Naughty & Nice 5K

If you are interested in participating in the 2016 MCCS Grand Prix Series go to: <http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/grandprix/>



Look to the Future: Upcoming 2d Tank Battalion Events

January

18 January: MLK Holiday
22 January: Healthy Families Workshop. Conflict Resolution/Fair Fighting

February

TBD: Healthy Families Workshop
15 Feb: George Washington's Birthday

March

4 Mar: Charlie Co Deactivation Ceremony
11 Mar: SMP Workshops
TBD: Healthy Families
25 Mar: 2d Tank Battalion Talent Show

Who Am I?

I was born in St. Louis Missouri and was a rambunctious high energy child who annoyed my older sisters and played sports. I ran cross country and track for over ten years. Running has continued into adulthood where I use it as a stress reliever. I enjoy living in the moment, watching movies and spending time with my wife. We have a deaf Blue Healer who is also high energy. Since my dog is deaf use sign language to communicate. He knows sit, stay, and toy...we are working on more sign language commands!

Can you guess who am I? Send your answers to the FRO, noreen.towle@usmc.mil. The first correct answer will receive a \$5 gift card.

